(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in Indian Express dated 1st July, 1993 under the caption Assam sleeps as AIDS comes in truck loads";

(b) whether Government are aware of the rising cases of AIDS in the State of Assam and lack of the detection facilities;

(c) whether Government have made any study with regard to the detection facilities available in Assam and the percentage of rise in the AIDS cases in the State during the last one year;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof stating the central assistance proposed to be given to the State Government of Assam to check the spread of AIDS in the State; and

(e) what is the extent to which AIDS detection facilities in other States and Union Territories have been provided?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With improvement in surveillance and better reporting, there is steady increase in the number of HIV cases being reported throughout the country. In Assam one Surveillance Centre and three Zonal Blood Centres are functioning where adequate testing facilities are available.

(d) From the inception of the surveillance programme till 30.6.1993 only one AIDS case has been reported from Assam. The total amount released to Assam for AIDS Control Programme during 1992-93 was Rs. 31.82 lakh. During 1993-94, Rs. 49.72 lakhs are proposed to be released to the State of Assam under the said programme.

(e) A total number of 62 surveillance centres and 118 Zonal Blood Testing Centres have been functioning in the country where blood testing facilities are available. In addition, training activities have been taken up in hand to improve the clinical diagnosis and management skills of the medical staff and other categories of health workers.

Problem of Indian students studying in Medical courses in countries of former Soviet Union

303. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problem of Indian students studying in Medical Courses in former USSR and other countries;

(b) whether those students are not getting admission in Medical Colleges of India;

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken/propose to take to obviate their problem; and

(d) whether future of these students is dark, if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Medical Council of India are considering the migration of students sponsored by the Council to the erstwhile U.S.S.R. for medical studies, subject to fulfilment of the criteria prescribed by the Council.

Total population in the country

304. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total population of India as at present and what was in 1971, 1981 and 1991 indicating which States in India is at top in adopting small family norm and which States/Union Territory is behind in this regard;

(b) what special programmes/guidelines have been announced by the Central Government on the occasion of